(c) whether the matter has been taken up with the US Government and if so, the response of U.S. Government in the matter; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above is in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No specific law has been enacted by the US so far which can be stated to be adversely affecting the interests of the Indian software industry. However, it is reported that some States in the US have contemplated bills seeking to impose restrictions on procurement of services by the State.

Several Bills have been introduced in the House of representatives recently which seek to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the admission of HIB visas for temporary workers and L-1 intra-company transferee non-immigrants. One of these Bills propose to severely restrict grant of such visas and to place a cap of 35,000 on the number of annual L-1 visas (currently there is no limit); stop the practice of filing blanket petitions to hire L-1 workers; adds requirements to pay locally prevailing wages to L-1 workers; requires L-1 workers to have been employed by the petitioning firm continuously for three years full time and would require the employer to fulfill a number of conditions at the time of filing the applications.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Since these bills have to go through a lengthy legislative process, including adoption of similar bills by the US Senate, their final passage and becoming law is uncertain at this point of time. It may, therefore, be premature to take up the matter with the US Government at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Harassment of telephone subscribers

436. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increasing volume of unsoliciated telephone calls from telemarketing agencies and market research

companies resulting in harassment and infringement of privacy of individual subscribers;

(b) whether as a consumer protection measure Government propose to evolve a mechanism to keep the individual phones out of bounds for such callers; and

(c) if so, the details of such protective measures proposed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. No such case came to notice.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Storage and transit loss of foodgrains

437. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER, AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the losses, during storage/transit, suffered by Government due to prevailing irregulaties in the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the responsibility fixed and the action taken to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The losses occur in foodgrain during storage and transit due to natural causes *viz.* moisture, spillage multiple handling, insect pests, rats, rains etc.

The storage losses incurred during the last three years in the FCI are as under:

(Qty. in lakh MTs)

Year	Quantity of loss	%age of total quantity issued
1999-2000	1.72	0.34
2000-2001	1.56	0.42
2001-2002	1.98	0.36